

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-10 DIWY-01 /067 W

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R 220245Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9533

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1106

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NZ VN VS

SUBJECT: NORTH VIETNAM/VIET CONG DELEGATION TO NEW ZEALAND

REF: STATE 090145

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS, CHARGE CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MERVYN NORRISH APRIL 21 TO STATE THAT VISIT OF NVN/PRG DELEGATION STRUCK USG AS MOST UNTIMELY GIVEN MASSIVE NVN/PRG VIOLATIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENT. USG HOPED VISIT OF DELEGATION WOULD BE LIMITED TO ACTIVITIES APPROPRIATE TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR AND THAT NO UPGRADING OF NEW ZEALAND'S CONTACTS WITH PRG WAS PRESAGED BY VISIT. STRESSED THAT WHEN NVN/PRG WERE CARRYING OUT MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH VIETNAM, ANY GNZ GESTURE TOWARDS THE PRG WOULD GREATLY HARM GVN INTERESTS.

2. NORRISH SAID GNZ UNDERSTOOD AND WAS SYMPATHETIC TO USG CONCERNS. WOMEN'S DELEGATION HAD IN FACT STAYED IN NEW ZEALAND ONLY ONE DAY RATHER THAN FIVE AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED, APPARENTLY DUE TO ACCELERATED TEMPO OF EVENTS IN VIETNAM. NORRISH STRESSED THAT NEW ZEALAND HAD NOT PERMITTED DELEGATION TO TRAVEL TO NEW ZEALAND ON PRG PASSPORTS. RATHER, CERTIFICATES OF IDENTIY HAD

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BEEN ISSUED BY NEW ZEALAND AND WELLINGTON AIRPORT OFFICIALS

HAD INSISTED, ON MFA INSTRUCTIONS, THAT IDENTITY CERTIFICATES RATHER THAN PRG PASSPORTS WERE ONLY VALID DOCUMENTS FOR ENTRY. PRG PASSPORTS HAD BEEN PROFFERED BUT NOT ACCEPTED BY IMMIGRATION OFFICER.

3. NORRISH SAID THAT WHILE GNZ UNDERSTANDS AMERICAN POSITION, EVENTS IN VIETNAM ARE HURTLING ALONG. NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR TO SAIGON, NORMAL FARRELL, HAD FLOWN TO SINGAPORE APRIL 18 TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN SAIGON WITH MFA AND GNZ OFFICIALS BY LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE. FARRELL'S ASSESSMENT OF SAIGON'S CHANCES OF HOLDING OUT WAS DESCRIBED BY NORRISH AS BEING BLEAKLY PESSIMISTIC. FARRELL HAD FLOWN BACK TO SAIGON ON APRIL 20 BUT NORRISH DID NOT EXPECT HIM AND OTHER NEW ZEALANDERS IN SAIGON TO REMAIN IN SOUTH VIETNAMESE CAPITAL MORE THAN TWO OR THREE DAYS. (LOCAL RADIO APRIL 22 ANNOUNCED THAT FAREELL AND OTHERS HAD EVACUATED TO SINGAPORE.)

4. NORRISH MADE SOME EFFORT TO BE REASSURING ON NEW ZEALAND DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF PRG. GNZ HAD NO INTENTION OF JUMPING THE GUN ON RECOGNITION, BUT WOULD FIRST WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENED. HOWEVER, ASSUMING AS GNZ DID, THAT SAIGON WAS SOON UNDER CONTROL OF NVN/PRG NEW ZELAND WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT DIPLOMATICALLY THE REALITIES ON THE GROUND IN VIETNAM.

5. IN RESPONSE QUESTION, NORRISH SAID AMBASSADOR FARRELL WOULD NOT BE RETURNING TO NEW ZEALAND IMMEDIATELY, BUT WOULD REMAIN IN SINGAPORE TO AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. KILLGORE

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